

REMARKS

Claims 2, and 4-23 remain in this application. Claims 2-5 and 10-20 have been amended and new claims 21-23 added. Due to an unnoticed printer error, claim 3 was not printed after claim 2 in the preliminary amendment. As a result, the Examiner renumbered the claims. This renumbering has been taken into account in amending the claims. New claim 21 is what should have been printed as claim 3 in the preliminary amendment.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to take into account the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112. The absolute value symbol has been replaced with parentheses. The recording medium is defined as having a center of rotation and made up of layers. The relative location and thicknesses of the CSS and data areas has been defined. The radii are expressed in terms of mm.

Thus, in the amended claims, the relative location of the CSS area and data area has been clarified and other amendments made to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections. Applicants note that independent claims 2 and 11 are based on Fig. 8A while new claims 22 and 23 are based on Fig. 8B.

Independent claims 2 and 11 amended above specify that the protective film layer in the CSS area comprises a plurality of films. By adopting such a multilayered protective film structure in the CSS area, excellent resistance to sliding is attained. None of the cited references discloses or suggests such a structure and its advantage. Therefore, the amendments to the claims also overcome the prior art rejections.

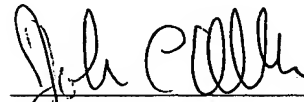
Applicants respectfully request a one month Extension of Time to respond to the Office Action of July 16, 2004. The extended period expires November 16, 2004.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge the fee of \$110.00 for a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 5, 2004



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